

Rhode Island Economic Policy Council

Meeting of Council Members

Public Session

March 11, 2009

The Rhode Island Economic Policy Council met on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 in Public Session, at 10:15 a.m., at the offices of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, located at 315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101, Providence, Rhode Island.

The following council members were present and participated throughout the meeting as indicated: Governor Donald L. Carcieri, Robert Carothers, Paul Cronin, Michael DiBiase, Ray DiPasquale, Elizabeth Huidekoper, John Partridge, George Nee, Michael Ryan, Gary Sasse, J. Michael Saul, Shivan Subramaniam, Robert Valentini, and Laurie White.

Council Members Absent: Mayor David Cicilline, Charles Bush, Paul Choquette, Ray DiPasquale, Gordon Fox, Tim Hebert, Ronald Machtley, Steven Sepe, George Vecchione and John Hazen White, Jr.

Governor Donald L. Carcieri presided over the meeting.

1. Call to Order
Governor Carcieri called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.
2. The Governor discussed the agenda and the importance of each opportunity to be presented in terms of their benefit to the state's economy.
3. Kevin Dillon, President and CEO – Rhode Island Airport Corporation, presented the challenges and opportunities the airport corporation is focusing on including cost reduction, increasing airline traffic and runway expansion. He noted successful initiatives undertaken to reduce costs and requested assistance from council members to participate in travel surveys which would assist the airport corporation in future discussions with air carriers. Council member Laurie White agreed to assist in the survey generation and tracking results.
4. Ray DiPasquale, President – CCRI, Armeather Gibbs, Chief Operating Officer – United Way of Rhode Island and Julian Alssid, Executive Director - Workforce Strategy Group, presented the CCRI Commission and explained how the commission was formed to address the need to educated Rhode Islanders for jobs in the 21st century. The commission will have recommendations ready for implementation in 2010.
5. Chris Wissmann, Chief Operating Officer - Deepwater Wind Holdings, presented the status of the state's first deep water wind farm which is slated to become the largest source of renewable energy for Rhode Island. He noted three areas which will need to be completed prior to implementation which include federal permitting, state permitting and power purchase agreements.

There being no further business in Public Session, the meeting was adjourned.